



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06



Site Name: Section 13 Mine - NM0038

CERCLIS ID#: N/A

Alias Site Name: Westwater Corp.

Address: Latitude 35 degrees 26'27.46" Longitude 107 degrees 50'47.50"

City/County or Parish/State/Zip: McKinley County, New Mexico



Report Type: Pre-CERCLIS Screening

Date: 03/31/11

Author: NMED

RECOMMENDATION:

☐ 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned
Under Superfund (NFRAP)

☐ 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund

☐ PA ☐ HRS Priority: ☐ High
☐ SI ☐ RI/FS ☐ Low
☐ ESI ☐ RA
☐ Other: _____

To be performed by: _____

☐ 3. Action Deferred to: ☐ RCRA ☐ NRC

☒ 4. Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP): ☐ Yes ☒ No

NOTIFY AUTHORITY:

☐ Removal ☐ RCRA ☐ TSCA ☐ CAA ☐ SMCRA
☐ Remedial ☐ State/Tribe ☐ NPDES ☐ NRC ☐ Resource Trustee: _____
☐ CERCLA ☐ Federal ☐ UIC ☐ SPCC ☐ Other: _____
Enforcement Facility

SEND SSSR COPIES TO: ☐ 6SF-AC ☐ 6WQ-SP ☐ ATSDR ☒ State Agency ☐ Tribal Agency

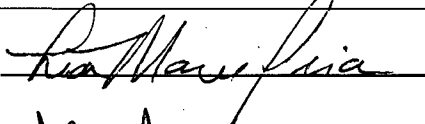
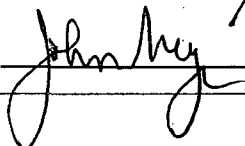
DISCUSSION:

The New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mine and Minerals Division (MMD) conducted the last site reconnaissance at the Section 13 Mine site in 1995. New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) used historical information to develop a pre-CERCLIS screen in 2011. The mine operated as a dry mine. The ore deposits were located above the water table when the mine operation began in 1977; the groundwater levels in the area were affected by extensive de-watering from mines that began operations in the mid-1950's. Mine operations ceased in 1981 and the mine area was reclaimed in the early 1990's, removing all structures and backfilling and/or covering of the shaft and bore holes. MMD released the site from further requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) in 1995. The closest residence is just over one mile from the mine site, and there are 13 wells within three miles, all of which are wells established for mining operations. The land surface and mineral estate are privately held.

In August 2011, EPA conducted an aerial radiological survey in the northwestern portion of the Ambrosia Lake sub-district by using the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT). The Section 13 Mine was included in the ASPECT survey. The gamma radiation readings at the Section 13 Mine site were only slightly statistically greater than background readings in the area.

Based on the extent of reclamation and the lack of gamma radiation readings above background, EPA recommends that the Section 13 Mine should be considered a low priority under CERCLA.

APPROVALS:

Report Reviewed by:	<u>Lisa Marie Price</u> (Site Assessment Manager)	Signature:	<u></u>	Date:	<u>1/23/12</u>
Disposition Approved by:	<u>John Meyer</u> (Section Chief 6SF-TR)	Signature:	<u></u>	Date:	<u>1/25/12</u>